

## **RC 01 Interim Conference 2012: Call for Papers**

RC 01 will have its Interim Conference in Maribor, Slovenia from **8-12 July 2012**

The overall theme is: Changes: The Military, Soldiers, Politics and Society

Please respond to the following **Call for Papers** and send a paper proposal to the chair(s) of the panel of your choice.

### **The deadline for submitting paper proposals is 4 March 2012**

Paper proposals are welcome to the following sessions:

#### **The Place of Women in the Military / The Place of the Military in Women's Lives**

The session will focus on the complex relations between women, Military service and life course trajectories. The extreme nature of militaries' gender regime calls for a specific research on the effects of military on women' life, however existing research in the field of military service in the life course focuses exclusively on men. This is surprising given the growing rates of women's participation in western militaries following the shift to professional militaries and the European Court ruling from 2000 that EU member states must recruit women on an equal basis. The session calls for papers exploring the relations between military service and women's life course from two perspectives. First, we want to explore the changing constraints and opportunities that shape women's military service - what are the social factors that encourage or push women's enlistment, and what are the factors that hinder women's military participation? Second, we want to look into the meaning of military experiences throughout the lives of women: What is the influence of military service on women from differing social backgrounds and who served in various military roles life trajectories? How does the expanded participation of women in militaries affect their gendered consciousness, political awareness and political activism? What is the nature of gendered and ethnic/racial boundary work that is carried out by women following military service? What is the interpretative framing that is employed in understanding their military service in retrospect?

#### **Organizers:**

Orna Sasson-Levy, [sassono@mail.biu.ac.il](mailto:sassono@mail.biu.ac.il)

Edna Lomsky-Feder, [msednal@huji.ac.il](mailto:msednal@huji.ac.il)

#### **The Military Profession and Asymmetric Warfare**

The end of the Cold War and the resulting disappearance of the two opposing blocs of states whose equilibrium was nevertheless a strong guarantee of the preservation of some sort of status quo, opened a Pandora's box from which have progressively and tumultuously emerged religious wars, ethnic conflicts, the disintegration of states and the birth of new state entities often in conflict with each other, phenomena all strongly at odds with the free trade and globalization needs of the victors in that war. Most of these new conflicts (*new wars*, according to the M. Kaldor definition) are asymmetric and the Western World (in a broad sense) has now to face a different and peculiar form of warfare, characterized by a situation where a weak side (state or non state actor) is opposed to a strong military state power. What could an appropriate answer from the West be?

#### **Organizer:**

Giuseppe Caforio, [gcaforio@fastwebnet.it](mailto:gcaforio@fastwebnet.it)

### **Managing the Armed Forces: Issues of Inter-Organizational Cooperation, Downsizing and Change**

This session proposes to collect papers on managerial issues concerning military organizations and wants to make use of concepts that emerge from the sociology of organizations as well as from military sociology and related disciplines. The idea is that military organizations are conventional organizations, to which conventional ideas and concepts may apply, but flavored with specific features that make them different: dealing with life threatening circumstances surrounded by a highly political context. They resemble so called High Reliability Organizations, but they are more politically influenced and more uncertain about their strategy, legitimacy, effectiveness and operational styles. In this session contributions on any sort of managerial issues are welcome: organizational structure, strategy and legitimacy/reputation/status, cooperation with other organizations/networking, management control of operations (including Effects Based Operations), military culture and manpower policies.

#### **Organizer:**

Joseph Soeters, [JMML.Soeters@NLDA.NL](mailto:JMML.Soeters@NLDA.NL)

### **Military Families**

The panel is intended to present and discuss papers devoted to research on military families of various types: families where one or both partners are military members, families where parents have a son/daughter in the military. Topics could cover family difficulties and stress related to deployment, mission legitimacy and consequences on recruitment as derived from parents' attitudes toward mission deployments in high-risk theatres, family vs. career tradeoffs in double-career families. The aim is to consider the topic under a comparative perspective in order to control the role of culture in defining the different ways developed by families in various situations to cope with a highly demanding profession.

#### **Organizers:**

Manon Andres, [md.andres@nlda.nl](mailto:md.andres@nlda.nl)

Rene Moelker, [rene\\_moelker@yahoo.com](mailto:rene_moelker@yahoo.com)

### **Conflict Resolution in Prolonged, Frozen and New Conflicts**

War, evidently, is understood in remarkably different ways by the military, politicians, civilian scholars, and the public at large. All agree, however, that war is most frequently violent. And there is a widespread acknowledgement that the nature of war waged by particular states is determined by the conflicting nature of interstate relations. Therefore there is a natural tendency to use all available means to avoid a transformation of conflict in a form of dispute into war. War is always a climax of conflicts of various types. Similarly, there is a consensus that conflicts cannot be divorced from their political and social origins, historic roots, etc. Modern sociological theory and research practice pays too little attention towards sociological dimensions of both conflicts and ways of their resolution in the world in which (unsurprisingly) war is inherent. The purpose of the panel of the RC 01 is to tackle the entire problem. The current global economic crisis is likely to intensify various types of conflicts in our world of scarce resources. Because vital national interests are given a priority, new conflicts necessary

follow, but the old so-called 'prolonged' and 'frozen' conflicts might get a new sounding too.

**Organizer:**

Vladimir Rukavishnikov, [rukavish@hotmail.com](mailto:rukavish@hotmail.com)

**All-Volunteer Forces: The Promise and Perils of Ending the Draft**

The transformation of Western style armed forces in the last two decades following the end of the Cold War, has had a major impact on the recruitment system of most European countries. The conscript system was abolished and replaced by all-volunteer forces not only in the majority (but not all) of the traditional NATO member states, but also in many former Warsaw pact countries. With this change in the recruitment system an adaption to new challenges, new tasks and new missions was intended. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the changed recruitment system had positive as well as negative effects. The panel evaluates the ramifications and possible unintended side effects of these changes by including different country examples with a variety of experiences with new and old recruitment and retention patterns.

**Organizers:**

Johan Österberg, [johan.osterberg@fhs.se](mailto:johan.osterberg@fhs.se)

Sabine Collmer, [collmers@marshallcenter.org](mailto:collmers@marshallcenter.org)

**Recruitment and Retention**

As many European and Western countries have abolished conscription, their armed forces are now facing different challenges of employers who strive to attract and retain qualified staff. New security political threats such as terrorism have led to growing demands on the military profession, whereas changes in societal values may have weakened its attractiveness. Further, the armed forces are confronted with declining military expenditures and political support as well as with demographic change all of which reflect in recruiting and retention problems. This session will therefore show how armed forces deal with these challenges, particularly focusing on service motivation, campaigns to enhance the attractiveness of military service and career, the recruitment and retention of minorities such as ethnic minorities and female employees, and military turnover and retention strategies. The session is open for all interested researchers.

**Organizers:**

Tibor Szvircsev Tresch, [tibor.szvircsev@vtg.admin.ch](mailto:tibor.szvircsev@vtg.admin.ch)

Natalia Merkulova, [Natalia.merkulova@vtg.admin.ch](mailto:Natalia.merkulova@vtg.admin.ch)

**Peacekeeping Operations and Multinational Cooperation**

This session will focus on sociological and cultural aspects of current peacekeeping operations, with particular interest in multinational cooperation. The main goal is to analyze and discuss the socio-cultural context of today's peacekeeping operations as well as questions related to the peacekeeping operations themselves.

**Organizer:**

Esther Bisig, [esther.bisig@vtg.admin.ch](mailto:esther.bisig@vtg.admin.ch)

### **Veterans in Civilian and Military Societies**

In this session, we invite papers studying the ongoing adjustment process between veterans and military or society, especially with a focus on how this process affects veterans identities. In this context, the perception of the military should not be confined to the legitimate armed forces of a particular country only, but can also include studies of extra-governmental military organizations.

#### **Organizers:**

Olga Nowaczyk, [o.nowaczyk@wns.uni.wroc.pl](mailto:o.nowaczyk@wns.uni.wroc.pl)

Rene Moelker, [rene\\_moelker@yahoo.com](mailto:rene_moelker@yahoo.com)

### **The Regimental Spirit**

What is a regiment? Is it just a name? No, it is much more than that. It is an institution. What is most important is to understand why soldiers fight. Soldiers fight for their buddies, their colleagues and for their company and unit ('paltan') and not for any political ideology. Decades of social science research from giants in the field such as Samuel Stouffer, Samuel Huntington, S.L.A. Marshall, Edward Shils, Morris Janowitz, Roger Little and Charles Moskos support the notion that a soldier's concern for personal survival in battle is minimized by the strength of the emotional bonds with his comrades.

#### **Organizer:**

Leena Parmar, [leenaparmar5@gmail.com](mailto:leenaparmar5@gmail.com)

### **Contributing to Peace Support Operations:**

#### **The Small Countries' Perspective**

In peace support operations (PSO), contributing countries vary significantly regarding their historical background, political interests and influence, economic position, military power, etc. Therefore, some participate with a high number of personnel and strong financial support, while others merely by showing the flag with limited political or economic influence, with modest financial means and deploying small contingents. Equality and equal status of all countries is just a myth, while reality shows that countries with more economic, political, military, etc. means have more influence on the political, strategic and tactical levels or even get the right to decide on important issues in the PSO. Despite that, each and every country gives the PSO legitimacy and presents an important part in achieving the goals. The first question posed at this point is how the contribution of a single, small or big, country is perceived by other contributing countries in the area of operation. We are interested in the broader political perspective as well as the influence of political, military, economic, etc. powers of the state on the interpersonal relations among servicemen and servicewomen on the tactical level. Another point of interest is the effectiveness of the work as perceived on the tactical level, including the frustrations and lack of motivation due to the disappointment when faced with PSO reality.

#### **Organizers:**

Janja Vuga, [janja.vuga@fdv.uni-lj.si](mailto:janja.vuga@fdv.uni-lj.si)

Uros Svete, [uros.svete@fdv.uni-lj.si](mailto:uros.svete@fdv.uni-lj.si)

### **Social Structure, Development and Conflict**

This session invites papers that help us understand the overall dynamics of conflict – be they socio-cultural, politico-economic or religious – across the globe in the 21st century.

**Organizer:**

Amin Pirzada, [dr\\_pirzada@yahoo.com](mailto:dr_pirzada@yahoo.com)

### **Public Perception of the Military**

The session will address the attitude of mass media and public towards the military and other security related issues, ranging from military profession, trust in the military, international operations and other military missions, strategic culture, terrorism and other security threats, to national and international security structures. The latter need a certain degree of support by the media and the public, and an adequate level of legitimacy in order to perform their duties effectively. The discussion will enable participants to exchange the data pertaining to individual countries, to compare key findings and to check recent public opinion and media trends.

**Organizer:**

Marjan Malesic, [marjan.malesic@fdv.uni-lj.si](mailto:marjan.malesic@fdv.uni-lj.si)

### **The Armed Forces: Heading towards Postinterventionism?**

The outcome of military interventions in the past has been quite meager. At the same time, these interventions have been very cost-intensive, both in terms of finances and in terms of military and civilian casualties. This is met with increasing domestic problems in the intervening countries leading to less enthusiasm for future military interventions. This may signal the emergence of an era of postinterventionism, which is not marked by a complete absence of military interventions, but by a trend towards much more selectiveness in military interventions than in the past. This panel invites general theoretical papers on the topic as well as case-studies and comparative approaches.

**Organizer:**

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